

Fire Accident at the All-India Industrial and Fine Arts Exhibition in Cubbon Park, Bangalore.

Q.—20. Sri H. C. LINGA REDDY (Kolar District—General).—

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether they are aware of the fire accident that overtook the All-India Industrial and Fine Arts Exhibition arranged in the Cubbon Park, Bangalore;

(b) the reasons for the fire;

(c) the extent of loss suffered by the stall holders and the management;

(d) the relief given by the Government to the sufferers;

(e) the steps they would take to prevent recurrence of such fire accidents?

A.—The Hon'ble Sri T. MARIAPPA (Home Minister).—

(a) Yes.

(b) and (c) Government have constituted a Committee of Enquiry, on 12th May 1951, under the Chairmanship of *Rajadharma prasakta* Sri T. Singarave'u Mudaliar, Retired Judge of the High Court of Mysore, to examine and report on—

(i) the causes of the outbreak and the rapid spread of the fire in the said Exhibition premises on 29th April 1951 and the extent of damage caused by it;

(ii) the precautionary measures undertaken against such eventualities; and

(iii) the manner in which such exhibitions have to be organised in future.

The report of the Committee is awaited.

(d) Nil.

(e) The question will be examined after receiving the recommendations of the Committee in the matter.

Sri H. C. LINGA REDDY.—Have the Police investigated into the fire accident?

*The Hon'ble Sri T. MARIAPPA.—They have held an enquiry.

Sri H. C. LINGA REDDY.—What is the opinion of the Police?

The Hon'ble Sri T. MARIAPPA.—That is confidential. It will be made available to the Committee.

Sri H. C. LINGA REDDY.—Whenever fire accidents occur, the Government give some relief, is it not?

The Hon'ble Sri T. MARIAPPA.—That matter has not been decided as yet. The whole matter will perhaps be considered after the receipt of the report.

Sri H. C. LINGA REDDY.—Are the Government aware that a number of poor stall holders have suffered as a result of the fire accident?

The Hon'ble Sri T. MARIAPPA.—The Government are fully aware of the loss sustained by both well-to-do and poor stall-holders.

Sri H. C. LINGA REDDY.—Will the poor stall-holders be helped by the Government substantially?

The Hon'ble Sri T. MARIAPPA.—The matter has to be very carefully examined.

Sri H. C. LINGA REDDY.—Will the Government take the necessary precautions to avoid recurrence of such accidents?

The Hon'ble Sri T. MARIAPPA.—In fact, that is one of the terms of reference.

Sri M. GOVINDA REDDY (Chitaldrug District—General).—Has it been discovered in the Police enquiry that the fire accident was due to sabotage?

The Hon'ble Sri T. MARIAPPA.—I am not prepared to disclose anything which has come out in the Police enquiry.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Short Notice Question No. 23.

Constituting the Public Service Commission.

Q.—23. Sri H. C. LINGA REDDY (Kolar District—General).—

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether it is a fact that the India Government have recently sent

instructions for the Mysore Government to constitute a Public Service Commission in accordance with the provisions of Indian Constitution ;

(b) the steps taken by them to constitute the Public Service Commission ?

A.—The Hon'ble Sri H. SIDDAIYA (Minister for Revenue and Excise).—

(a) No.

(b) The Public Service Commission has been constituted.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table).

Khadi Production Centre at Sarjapur.

*Q.—26. Sri S. KARIAPPA (Bangalore District—General).—

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Bangalore District Board, at any time, tried to start a Khadi Production Centre;

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, the place where the Centre was started;

(c) the amount invested on the scheme;

(d) the quantity of Khadi or yarn produced ?

A.—The Hon'ble Sri R. CHENNIGARAMIAH (Minister for Local Self-Government).—

(a) Yes.

A Khadi Production Centre was started in July 1947 financed by the District Board, Bangalore.

(b) The Centre was started in Sarjapur, Anekal Taluk.

Rs. a. p.

(c) Working Capital 5,000 0 0
Establishment
charges incurred. 2,719 10 0

(d) From June 1947 to August 1949—

Khadi produced (value)

Rs. 1,187.

Yarn produced 140 lbs.

Demand for supply of zinc sheets and barbed wire.

*Q.—44. Sri H. SIDDANANJAPPA (Hassan District—General).—

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

the efforts they have made to meet the increasing demand of the agricultural classes, particularly in Malnad area, for the supply of zinc sheets and barbed wire (give details of the efforts made if any) ?

A.—The Hon'ble Sri T. MARIAPPA (Home Minister).—

An allotment of 475 tons of zinc sheets, i.e., 100 tons for period I/50, 25 tons for II/50, 50 tons for III/50 and 150 tons for IV/50 and 150 tons for I/51 have been allotted to the State by the Government of India. As against this total allotment of 475 tons of zinc sheets, only 81 tons and 4 cwts. have been received so far. The same has been distributed equitably to all the Districts by the Department of Food Production. Due to paucity of sulphur and spelter, this category of galvanised sheets is not being manufactured. Instead, black corrugated sheets are available. On receipt of this quantity, the Malnad Districts will also receive their share equitably consistent with supplies.

As regards barbed wire, a total allotment of 305 tons, i.e., 80 tons for period I/50, 25 tons for period II/50, 50 tons for period III/50, 100 tons for period IV/50 and 50 tons for period I/51 have been allotted by the Government of India to the State and as against this total quantity of 305 tons, only 50 tons and 20 tons have been received up till now. This quantity has been distributed equitably to all the Districts. During February 1951, five tons to Chikmagalur, two tons to Shimoga, and two tons to Hassan have been supplied. Every endeavour is being made to obtain supplies by addressing the Iron and Steel Controller, Government of India and Stockists.